



Haseltine Newsletter: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Dear Families & Friends,

Welcome to the new school year – 2023-24. It has been a lovely first week back: the staff enjoyed 2 packed INSET days with training including sessions on Zones of Regulation and on Colourism & Hairism (more on all of these to follow in this newsletter and later in the term) and then of course, the children returned – what a welcome we got when we opened the gates on Wednesday morning ☺ It has been so lovely catching up with everyone this week and the children are settling brilliantly into their new year groups and classes.

Our new reception children are also starting well and are settling well into Haseltine life; we are so pleased that you chose us as your school and I really look forward to getting to know your children, and you, over the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming back our existing children and welcoming in our new children to nursery from next week too. We hope that you and your child will be really happy here. Please remember that I am always here for you should you need anything – at Haseltine, we believe very strongly that there is no such thing as a silly question or a problem that cannot be solved.

I always stand at the big gates at the start and end of the day, unless for any reason I am unable to do so. I do, however, teach in year 5 now on Wednesdays, so instead it will be Dr Canniford (the federation's Deputy Head) on the gates – you can find me at the end of the day with my yr5 class near the restaurant area. Haseltine's Assistant Head/SENDCo, Mrs Whilby, is always on the smaller gate on Mondays, Wednesday afternoons & Thursday & Friday. Ms. Odle from our office does Tuesdays & Wednesday mornings. Please come and speak with any one of us if you need help with anything or if you have a question or concern.

### **Meet the Teacher Events next week:**

If your child is in yr1-6, there will be an opportunity for you to come & meet your child's teacher next week on the following days:

Years 1 & 2: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 3.35pm

Years 3 & 4: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 3.35pm

Years 5 & 6: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 3.35pm

Please pick up your child from the line & go straight up to the classroom at 3.35pm, your teacher will talk to you about the learning, home-learning expectations, PE days etc. etc.

One thing that the teachers will share with you all is a link to the Padlet Page for your child's year group. On this, you will be provided with updates to children's learning, access to home-learning and ideas on how to support learning further at home.

This year, we are going to be better at consistently updating the Padlet pages throughout the school, please see me over the next few weeks if you think this may not be happening. This is following your feedback through our latest Parent Questionnaire.

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**Change to the end of the day:**

I'm sure that you all know by now but just to remind you: we had to change the end of the day time according to government guidance and so we now finish at 3.25pm. Please ensure that you pick up promptly – the gates will be closed at 3.35pm; any child not picked up by 3.35pm will need to go to lates & you will incur a late fee. We totally understand that there may be times when an emergency comes up which means you may be late – we really appreciate the phone calls we get from you to let us know this.

**Nursery parents: nursery still finishes at 3.20pm, please pick up your nursery child before you pick up other children.**

**The start time remains the same:** gates open at 8.45am; KS1 bell goes at 8.50am & KS2 at 8.53am. The official start time for all children is 8.55am. Any child who gets to class after 8.55am is considered to be late. I will be closing the gates at 9am so if you are arriving after this time you must buzz through to the office. Learning at Haseltine starts at 8.55am – every minute of school missed is a minute of learning time missed and children become stressed & agitated when they arrive after 8.55am, so it is really important that children arrive on time please.

**Please be aware that mobile phones are not allowed to be in use on site at Haseltine, please do not phone, text, use the internet or take photos when you enter the school playground.**

Thank you for your support on this 😊



**World Afro Hair Day (WAD) – September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Every year, Haseltine takes part in World Afro Hair Day on September the 15<sup>th</sup> and this year is no exception.

Please follow this link to learn more: <https://www.worldafroday.com/>

The vision behind WAD is:

“World Afro Day is a global day of celebration and liberation for Afro hair and identity, endorsed by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights. We work with organisations, companies, authorities and people from all backgrounds to tackle hair discrimination. We produce events, tools and training to empower people with Afro hair and to equip everyone for change”

**Michelle De Leon, Founder of World Afro Day.**



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Also have a look at this video clip to see one of our ex-students, who won a modelling competition, in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lueE1ORGsTk>

On Friday, our assemblies will focus on WAD (I will also introduce the day in our assembly on Monday) and teachers will be discussing issues around hairism with their classes throughout the week.

On Friday, we would love for all children with afro hair to show off their hair in whichever way they choose. Although, to be really clear, we do not have a hair policy at Haseltine and so all children can do this on any other day of the year too of course. Friday is about empowering our children to be proud of, not only their hair, but their heritage, their race & their beauty.

### **School Meals**

As you are aware all children are now entitled to a Mayor's Initiative Meal. This means school meals are no longer charged for, for this academic year. At present your child is recorded as Packed Lunch or School Dinner based on their options from last year. If you wish your child to remain on the option then you need not do anything. If you wish your child to change to or from school meals you need to let the office know so we can change the system accordingly. Please be aware whichever option you choose this will remain in force until the October half term.

Our catering staff order their provisions in advance and these are based on current figures of children taking meals. We have in the past had issues with dinner numbers being incorrect due to packed lunch children not bringing in a lunch on roast day or chip day, for example. This has a knock-on effect to other children taking meals that day as additional children are not catered for, and also a financial implication as the school was charged for meals by the catering company which we were unable to collect money for from the parents.

To ensure these situations do not arise again we will be starting a check list system at lunchtime for children having packed lunch to ensure they are not joining the lunch queue. This will be done sensitively and will not single any child out, however, if your child does not have a packed lunch with them, we will need to contact you to bring one in.

Please do not confuse this with FSM, which is something that some children may be entitled to if for example you are already receiving other benefits or if your income falls below a certain amount. We urge parents to check out this website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

& to apply if you think you are eligible as there are so many other benefits for your child such as free holiday clubs in Lewisham, free food vouchers for holidays & free instrument tuition at Haseltine.

Kind regards  
**Moira Dunn**

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### **Music lessons at Haseltine:**

Any children who were learning an instrument last year at Haseltine can continue again this year, it will simply carry over. Everything is pretty much the same, although there is a new clarinet teacher who will come in on Tuesdays. The lessons will start next week for most instruments.

There are places available to learn the following instruments:

- Guitars
- Clarinets
- Violins
- Cello

If your child is in year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and you would like them to learn one of these, please can you email me on [s.anderman@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:s.anderman@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk) to request a place, it will be first come, first served and then names added to a waiting list.

Please note: tuition costs £50 per term (payable on Parent Pay) and there may be some cost for the hire of the instrument. If your child is entitled to FSM (and by this we mean, you have applied via the website and have been given a code – not receiving a free meal under the new scheme started this year) then the lessons will be free.

There is also a free Samba Club available for all children in years 5 & 6. This will run after school, again, email me if you want your child to come to this.

This all, all children in yr3 will learn the ukulele and all children in yr4 will have Samba lessons.

### **Clubs at Haseltine:**

You may have noticed some letters coming home about some new clubs starting up. These are clubs run by teachers or LSAs and the adults running the club will be contacting you directly, you would need to return the slips if you are interested straight away. The individual teacher will then allocate places and once the club is full, children will be placed on a waiting list. Once a place becomes available or if the club is run again, the teacher will select new children from this list.

Some clubs are run to support specific learners and parents will be contacted directly for their children to attend – this will be free tuition and should not be turned down 😊



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Please note that all the clubs that are run by Haseltine staff are down to the kindness of the adults in giving up their own time to run them, they are subject to change as I cannot guarantee that teachers will always be able to have that time. Thank you for your understanding.

We also have a few clubs that are run by outside agencies. The school does not have anything to do with these (except to monitor them), and parents are required to make arrangements/payments with these clubs directly.

### **Twitter (X):**

There have been some changes to Twitter and our website isn't currently able to display our feed. This is hopefully being rectified soon and so you will be able to see examples of the amazing learning opportunities at Haseltine soon. Of course, if you are on Twitter then you will still be able to access in the usual way.

Our Twitter name is @HaseltinePS and every year group has its own page too. Teachers will share this with you when they can – we are having a few teething problems at the start of the year but hopefully, these will be rectified soon.

### **Zones Of Regulation:**

On Tuesday all the staff at Haseltine & Fairlawn had training on the Zones of Regulation and many teachers, especially those in the younger years through to yr4 have already started using them with your children.

In a nutshell, these are zones relating to how a person (child or adult) is feeling and they provide the opportunity for children to be able to express themselves much more easily, especially those children who may find this difficult. The program is designed to support children with ASD in particular but it is actually very beneficial to all children.

It is important to note that there are no 'right' zones and no 'wrong' zones, and that all of us may step into any one of the zones at any time and that is okay. We then are speaking with children about what they can do to help them should they find themselves in a zone which is stopping them from learning or is making them feel stressed.

The poster below is a summary of the zones & the feelings within them and there is also a link to the website that will give you lots more information. The internet is also full of images & websites to support, including lots of videos on You Tube.

You may find it useful to talk to your children about this or to ask them what they know about the zones.

The Zones of Regulation will not change our behaviour policy, but over the next week or so I will make links to the zones within our policy and so it will be updated on our website.

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<https://zonesofregulation.com/>

### **Haseltine Library:**

Did you know that Haseltine library is open every day after school (3:30pm - 4:00pm) for you to use with your child? Please do come along so they can enjoy the books on offer.

If you have a Haseltine library card, your child is welcome to take some books home using the scanner. The return date for the books will be on your receipt.

If you do not have a library card and would like one, please email Miss McIntosh at [s.mcintosh@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:s.mcintosh@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk)

Thank you, and enjoy!

**Have a very lovely weekend everyone, enjoy the weather!  
See you all on Monday,  
Sara Anderman**

[s.anderman@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:s.anderman@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk) (new email address, although the old one will still work for a while)